

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 IGA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5649

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MX

SUBJ: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HIGHLY CRITICAL OF U.S. TRADE LAW

REF: MEXICO 315

1. PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ON JAN. 13 ISSUED STATEMENTS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF NEW U.S. TRADE LAW, WHICH ARE CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN MEXICAN PRESS JAN. 14. ECHEVERRIA DECLARED MEXICO'S FULL SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR IN ATTACKING DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS OF ACT, AND CALLED FOR EARLY MEETING OF OAS IN WASHINGTON TO PURSUE MATTER. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT QUESTION MEXICAN ATTENDANCE AT MARCH MFM IN BUENOS AIRES IS "UNDER REVIEW" AND WILL BE DECIDED UPON IN NEXT FEW DAYS, AND WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON RESULTS SECRETARY KISSINGER-FONSEC RABASA JAN. 14 MEETING.

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2. STATEMENT WAS IN FORM OF LETTER OF SUPPORT TO VENEZUELAN

PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, WHO EARLY LAST WEEK SENT LETTER TO MEXICAN PRESIDENT DESCRIBING PROVISIONS OF NEW LAW (E.G. OPEC MEMBERSHIP PROVISION IN GSP ARTICLE) AND ASKING FOR SUPPORT. IN REPLY, ECHEVERRIA DESCRIBES TRADE LAW AS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONDUCT AND "CLEARLY DISCRIMINATORY". ECHEVERRIA SAID LAW DOES NOT RECOGNIZE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF LDCS, NOR SHOW PROPER REGARD FOR DIVERSE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

3. IN LETTER TO PEREZ, ECHEVERRIA NOTED THAT "IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ACTING JUST AS WE ALWAYS HAVE DONE, MEXICO WILL DEFEND INFLEXIBLY A POLICY OF PRINCIPLE AND WILL SEEK, ALONG WITH BROTHER NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA, CONCERTED PROGRAMS IN DEFENSE OF OUR PEOPLE". PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PARTICULARLY CITED UNCTAD II DECLARATIONS, CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, AND THE TOKYO DECLARATION OF SEPT. 14, 1973 AS AMONG THOSE INTERNATIONAL ACCORDS WHICH NEW TRADE LAW VIOLATED.

4. EXCELSIOR ON JAN. 14 DESCRIBES PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S REPLY TO VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT AS A "DIPLOMATIC TIE WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN LATIN AMERICA" WHICH CLEARLY SIGNALS HOW PRESIDENT FORD'S NEW TRADE LAW VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION. BALANCE OF MEXICAN PRESS GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO RELEASE OF LETTER AND ITS CONTENTS.

5. EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF RABASA'S EARLIER "SOFTNESS" ON TRA CONTINUES.
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